

3 June

insisted on dog's alignment.
standing up as a quadrant,
internally. But what about
the "walls", what about
the outside. To focus on the
"inside" as opposed to the
"outside" is an interpretation,
at least a biased
sample. This is analogous to
digging the "house" in
a roman villa context, or
a burial mound in an
ancient cemetery in a rural
context. Naughty! But
there's a chance we might
get more sway this way.
Chris says Mike is being
optimistic when he says
it can be down (planned)
in 2 days - on past
performance! (Chris is
"very narrow with a pencil").

Basic (2nd) ($10 \times 13\text{m}$) set up over excavation & recording site.

Chris and Mike. Site

line 4

Showing happened archaeology -
early.

5 June 96

Mike started getting organised for the surface plan drawing, after finishing the drawing at the other house. Ash eventually managed to join him (after fence post delays etc etc)

We're going to try half the grid each - Mike not really the western half, Ash the eastern. It's a (phenomenally!) large area: 130 m^2 ! we estimate 8 person-days to completion. And neither of us really see any point in recording the surface plan at this stage i.e. with no meaningful excavation being likely to occur. By end of day

wall done ~ 26 m².

6 June 96

Ash continued planning E half
(Mike offsite today)

In morning Chris Tilley + AN other came
with doorframe to record intervisibility. They
had a brief discussion about whether the
doorframe should be aligned with inner or
outer walls, recorded their results, & left.

Peter Hearing of Cornwall A.V.
walked past ^(with colleague & dog) & identified the C19th
straddle stone in NE quadrant (outside
house).

Ash sat on the large flat stone in inner wall
NW quadrant, for a while & examined the
situation / scenery / rocks / horses / bats etc
- Noticed that no cairns nor other terminal are
visible through the putative entrance gap -
interesting.

(N.B. The "NE quadrant" goes from 208.5 to 213
N, hence the "SE quadrant" will be from 200-205
- yes, these aren't equal, but that won't matter)

for the assembled info.)

NE quadrant was Sheet 2: Drawing 1 - finished
Site code ascertained to be LSS 96

Ash started SE quadrant - Sheet 3: Drawing 1
Sue & Chris G passed through to acquire some
large nails from the LSS tool box. Otherwise
no one else has been within 100 m - very pleasant
to get on with the tasks with little disturbance.

Some loud sledgehammering going on at the
stone ion terminal in early afternoon - the sound
took about 1 second to get here, so it must be
~ 340 metres away.

The above was written about 4.30 pm. Then
the settlement survey team drove near - lots of
chat about what we're doing, what we might find,
what they're doing etc. Net result was that by 6pm
Sheet 3: Drawing 1 had only progressed as far as the title!
(ASH)

7th June.

Mike continues to draw hut
39. There is little point in this
excavation except insofar as
it may facilitate the reconstruct-
ion of the site's pre-excavation
condition. Too many rocks
(mainly buried). It may be possible
to establish trends across
structures (circularity, double-
skinned walls, possibly even
a common orientation), but
any deeper interpretation is
at the very least going to run
up against the destructive
potential of the former.
For this reason, Mike declines
to indulge in it! He is entertain-
ing, yes, but so is Von Däniken
and Alfred Watkins. He, on
the other hand, sees in
archaeology something more

(important) than entertainment,
the knowledge and appreciation
of things for what they are
rather than what they're
supposed to be. It is only,
by doing this that we can
reconcile ourselves with
reality, it is only by doing this
we can 'realize' ... oh fuck
this, I haven't written such
crap! And since I was a
teenager! [This afternoon (ap)
but 39 had three visitors, a
family "Do you mind
telling us what you're doing?"
the husband asked. "I'm
drawing a picture but,"
Mike answered. "These are
all structures ..." he pointed
in front and behind, the
man turning with him:
"Really?" he asked what
the kids were, how old it

was exactly, were we
 coming back? His wife, when
 Mike pointed out the
 enclosure walls, said,
 "They had them 'far?" in
 surprise. Thanking him, all
 three went on to look at the
 excavation in the western
 settlement. People are just
 interested. It is not necessary
 to pull their mothers apart,
 not mine, not Chns Tully's,
 not this Samely's. But
 for what it's worth, it's the
 latter's which seem the most
 honest.



Chns was agitated about Mike's
 optimism; even with Ash's
 help, he'll 39 won't be drama-
 till Monday

Saturday 8 June

Mike finished planning W half of grid.
Ash continued with eastern half & did 21 m². Ash
has 23 m² left to do, hopes to complete tomorrow.

Mike noticed that some of the stones have been
shifted recently. e.g. One in the putative entrance
had luxuriant green grass under it i.e. stone must
have been shifted by at least 10 cm within the
past couple of weeks, probably less.

Sunday 9 June

Ash finished SE quadrant - 23 m² in 5 hrs, seems OK
for speed. Accuracy OK. The 4 plans align pretty well.

The Prehistoric Society passed through, & trashed
the (primary) NW grid peg - makes a change from
cattle & horses. ^{they} Then sat around & ate lunch - I thought I better
look professional & carry on till after they'd moved out of sight, so my headphones at 1.30
Some sensible questions from the Cornish Archaeological
Society later. Ash got a real buzz out of saying to
one of them "The 2 of us who've been drawing this
house for the last 3 days know these stones better than
anyone has in the last 3000 years." I wonder
if it's true.

I've had 2 very pleasant days drawing this house -

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back pains, trashed grid pegs, rhomboidal planning frames, collapsing planning frame supports, occasional wind gusts giving my straight lines little kinks notwithstanding. I do archaeology because I enjoy the process.

Currently we are gathering raw data; my flights of fancy about interpretations are just that - entertaining intellectual dreams/games that keep me amused while I'm (physically) busy doing something else. While any discipline needs to have its methodology constantly under review, & occasionally totally redefined, I don't see that this Project can do that (was that one of its intentions, anyway?) since it is predominantly introducing the uninitiated into techniques (that have been painstakingly established over 10 decades or so), and getting to the stage of being able to produce constructive criticism is, of course, time consuming & requires ~~not~~ not merely intellect & honesty, but also practical experience of the many techniques involved, & how they feed off each other to produce the interpretations that are the ultimate output from archaeology to society at large. (Archaeologists, of course, just do archaeology because they enjoy doing it, & it can pay the mortgage etc.)

↑ or maybe not!

End of the shift

Having proudly finished the plan around 4pm I spent ~20 mins tidying up. Then went to find the settlement survey team to tell them that, as predicted 1 hour earlier, I had finished, hence they could do their stuff with Hut 39 today. And then we could depart first thing tomorrow. After 20 minutes trying to find them I noticed that they were just disappearing over the horizon towards Westmoorgate i.e. they'd gone home. How on earth is the excavation going to be completed if everyone adopts this lackadaisical approach to progressing the site? They (i.e. the non-excavators) are typically arriving an hour later on site, & getting off site $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before the excavators. This is a shameless frittering of resources (that are always scarce in archaeology) & is not treating the project with the seriousness & professionalism that it deserves. [If the project is worth doing, it's worth doing well, and that includes the excavation component which, since it has a definite completion (unlike the settlement survey) can not fail to suffer if the current general approach to the 3 excavations does not alter radically.]

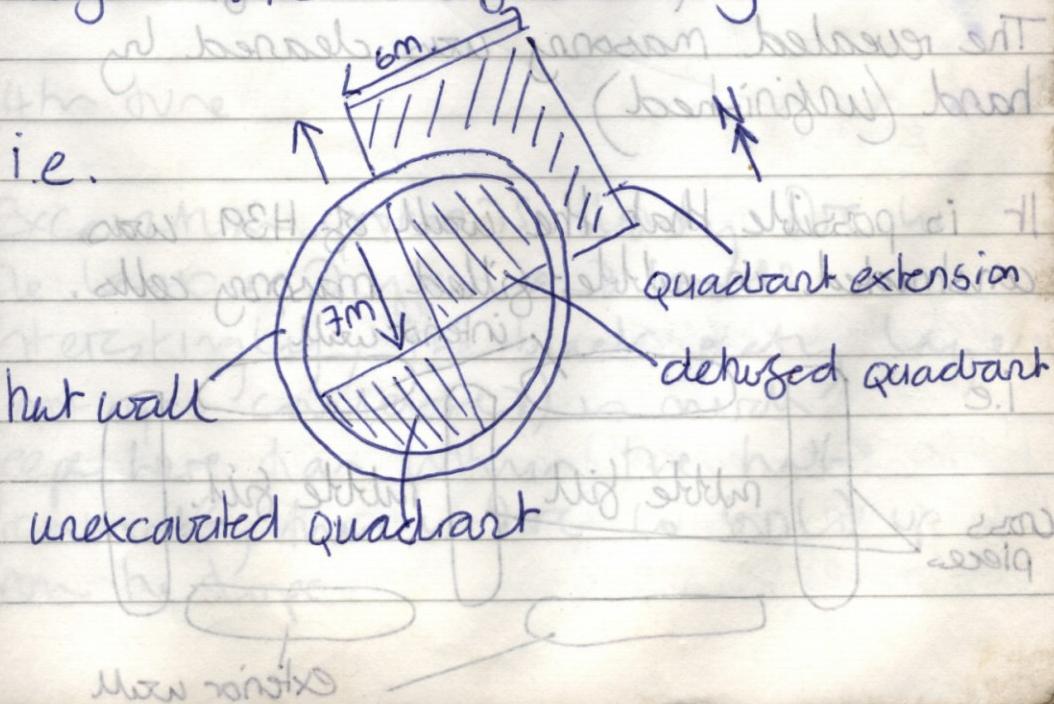
We have 10 working days left...

10th June 1996 - C.A.G. APP1 UNIT MSI

The quadrant adjacent the large backstone was dehived.
Large quantities of rubble were revealed below the hog line during this process.

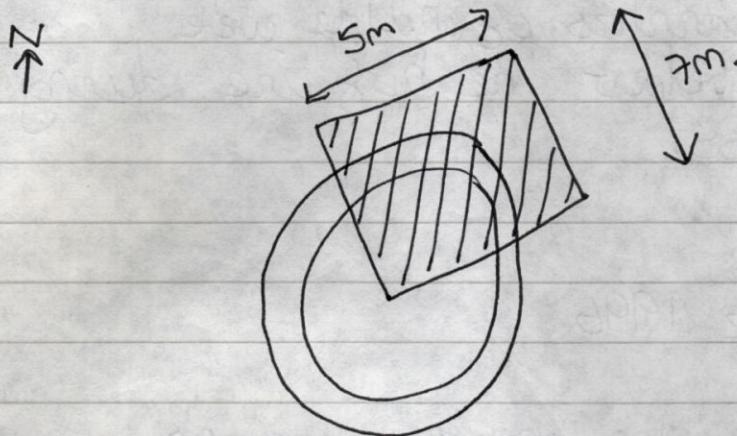
11th June 1996.

Proposed extension of quadrant beyond interior of building



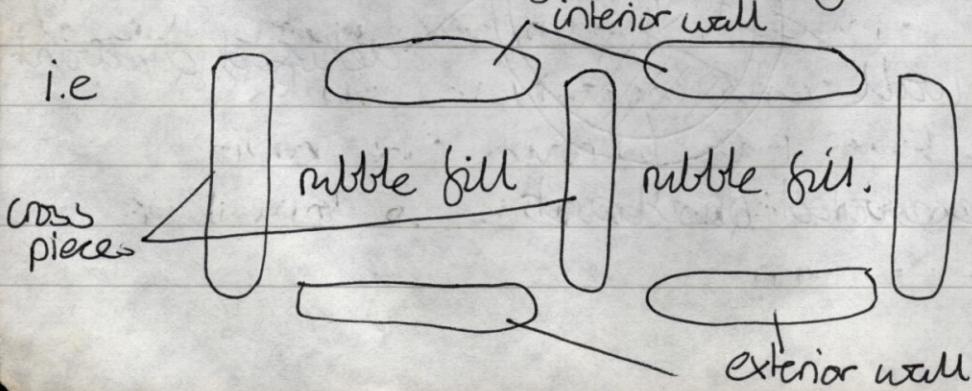
12th June 1996.

Quadrant extended over H39. (5m. x 7m.)



The extended quadrant was deholed.
The revealed masonry was cleared by
hand (unfinished)

It is possible that the wall of H39 was
constructed in rubble-filled masonry cells.



13th. June 1996.

Extended quadrant was cleared-up
and photographed.

A.R. kept photographic record which needs
to be transferred to appropriate file.

No contexts have been assigned to H39

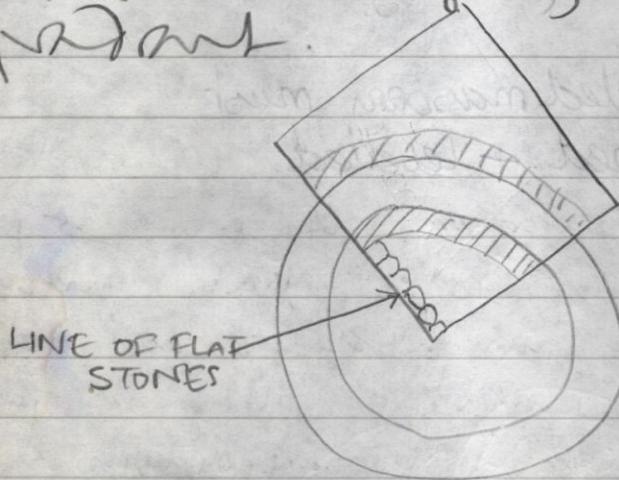
The newly revealed masonry must
initially be planned. + levelled. Thanks
Chris.

14th June

Excavation proceeds slowly due to
the lack of diggers and tools.
Interestingly, the black peaty layer
(not yet characterised) is much
steeper here than within the hut.
Probably this is due to build up
from the slope.

15th June

Ready SW photography and planning prov to - the closing down of the trench? In addition to cellular structure noted on Wednesday we now have a line of flat stones running across one edge of the inner quadrant.



WALL RUBBLE

These resemble drains (or "sumps", like a hole) found in similar wells elsewhere.

Shennan visits and looks
wide eyed at everything. Mike
feels very odd describing what
appears obvious to Sean a
wonder.

Sets of photos taken before and
after brushing. It will be
interesting to see if the results
differ.

16th June

Mike and Sue showed me what it is I
was going to plan after Ash's departure.
Felt a little unconfident at first
since I haven't planned for
a year but started the P&H
planning when the face went crooked
most difficult part is getting
up the right side of the frame on the end
right through a column being thicker than
the curved (U) rock walls which are
Suey shoddily and haphazardly

at hut entrance which may have resulted from house burning down - or something like that. I won't be planning that bit but it will need to be marked.

17th June.

Continued where I left off yesterday. Finished the NE quadrant and got Mike to help me set up grid for NW part. Have done a bit of it - $3 \cdot 5 \text{m}^2$.

21st June.

H39 was given very basic context descriptions. These are not designed to be the final context sheets for the hut. Rather, they are intended to provide a framework for next year's work. Apart from the hogline, none of the contexts have been excavated. It is so likely that this year

context sheets will be radically altered / disposed of next year.

Drawing nos. not on context sheets
 Context nos. not on drawings (see ①)

22nd June.

Rehoused.

The main feature is a thick iron staining - very red - top - brown layer (1) on a dark silty clay base (2). This reddish layer rests on a dark reddish silty clay deposit (3) which overlies layers of 'pea-grit' (4) (see drawing B). A mottled iron pan deposit was located below both (1) + (3). A number of possible cut features were located on the surface of (3). These have been traced and sketched on a plan of H39 101W.

1997 SEASON).

May 28th.

The south-eastern quadrant of H39 has been bluuged. The stones have been defined by trowel and brush ready for planning by Justin.

We have started to excavate to the back of the structure. The hug and underlying context (?) have been removed to reveal a pea-grit deposit. The rubble is apparently located within contexts (?) and the pea-grit. Hopefully, most of the rubble will be removed by the end of the day.

4th June.

(T & J) - description

The excavation of deposits to the rear of H39 has been undertaken to the level of the iron panning ⑪. A slot has been excavated across ⑪ to a depth of $\approx 0.65\text{m}$ below the original ground surface. No archaeological features / artefacts located beyond the main structural wall of H39.

The majority of the internal wall rubble ⑤ has been removed from H39. This procedure revealed a mid brown silty clay deposit ⑫ and an overlying layer of 'pea-grit' ⑬ [see dwg. B1]. A mottled iron pan deposit was located below both ⑫ + ⑬. A number of possible cut features were located on the surface of ⑬. These have been tagged and sketched on a plan of H39 N.W.

Quadrant [Aug. B I].

Currently, a small trench is being excavated across possible drain ⑥. To undertake this work, a slot extension was added to the N.W. quadrant of H39. The stones revealed in this slot were photographed, planned and levelled. This investigation is still in its early stages. However, a possible drain cut has been revealed to dissect layer ⑬.

No further excavation can be undertaken within the N.W. quadrant of H39, until the slot across ⑥ has been completed.

The area of investigation behind wall structure ③ has been excavated fully. However it needs to be cleared and the baulk sides straightened.

9th June 1997

E. Jones takes over
(from C. Creekmore.)

Nothing was done this morning as I was given the site visit by S.H. and then tried to understand the context that C.G. had left me. The site is very complicated and it is difficult to be certain about occupation layers, especially as there are no finds.

This afternoon a test pit was dug to metres approximately due south of the trench in order to determine whether context ③ was on ancient land surface that extended across the hill. This in fact was the case.

I cleared the slot that had been dug through context ⑥ down to natural but could find no cut that could support the theory of a linear drain/sump feature.

June 15th

Gerry and I spent the day travelling the N.W. quadrant in order to see if there were any features cut into the natural. We have completely scanned 2/3 of it but have not found anything.

The slot through context ⑥ shows a circular patch of natural below where a flat stone has (as part of the lifting of stones) been removed. The patch is surrounded by dark grey silt and the stone must have been in situ for a very long time. Was this a post platform for a central post?

More stones have appeared in the natural after the travelling and conjure up images of ~~old~~ S.H. but quite

18 19

correctly stated that as they are below the ancient land surface they can't have been laid by human hand but have formed naturally. [unless of course they are cut features].

Two students (Fay + Dan) started travelling the S.E. quadrant. The weather was appalling and we left the site early.

15th June

A sequence of jobs seems to be evolving which will see the outside of the N. ~~SE~~ quadrant completed first and ready to be backfilled. Then the inside of this quadrant will be finished on the ~~E/W~~ section down.

Next week we shall put a shot through the wall so that the section of ~~the~~ ^{N/S} can be drawn. Hopefully we shall find something meaningful here.

the wall.

We removed the rubble from the S.E. quadrant and the deer entrance is looking quite impressive. We also started travelling this area late in the day.

13th June

Finished cleaning up the entrance and removed rubble from outside of the S.W. quadrant.

We removed flat stones of cinder
⑬ and cleaned down to the floor. There is definitely no cult. under the stones. It seems from the section that there is an overburden type deposit which is similar in character to ⑨ and ⑩. This appears intermittently across the site but

& seems to be more evident near clusters of stones. It remains to be seen if it goes under the soil.

In the first part of the trench we found a potsherd rim and two smaller pieces close up to the section and in this layer.

Staff work! earth baulks etc
as they went good

14th June 1897

was night now took them

Very frustrating day, the contexts in the S.E. Quadrant seem to be more complicated the more we brush off. If we are below the archaeology there doesn't seem to be much point in delicate travelling especially given the work there is to be done. Even if there are features down in the iron-pit or below the mimbado well go start mattoching now

The TBM that was pointed out to me is not correct and I will have

to take new levels tomorrow.

We drew and photo graphed the extended south facing section of the N. East quadrant as well as photographing the cleaned up entrance.

We removed stone 1. from the top of the wall using fence posts as well strong arms. We are now ready to remove the rubble from the centre of the wall and will begin this tomorrow.

15th June 1987

Continued with the travelling of the S. W. quadrant. I cleaned up the N. ~~E~~ quadrant but no features were evident. Tomorrow I will attack a few inches off the top in order to see if any more features come up.

We put a section line across the wall and started removing the rubble from inside the A. unit.

Heller's cabin is almost finished and we should have more assistance next week.

16th June 1917

We are down to the 'bat' in the N. W. quadrant and should be finished tomorrow. We have half sectioned unit A. of a wall and down the section to be excavating the unit totally. It is interesting to note that the cobble fill was liberally interspersed with soil (perhaps tufts) in its construction.

I began lifting the rubble from inside the hull as the S. E. quadrant

we have found what appears to be a partially paved surface in the interior entrance of the hut.

The exterior of the hut (S.E. side) also continued to be excavated but progress is slow.

19th June 1997

Today the weather is awful and we are not digging, so I have the opportunity to catch up with this diary.

During the past two days we have completed the excavation of unit A travelled down to context O in the S.E. quadrant and found two features (possibly post-holes) in the N.W. quadrant.